What is claimed is:

1. A flood gate for use in a foundation crawl space and the like, the flood gate comprising:

a frame having side walls defining a fluid passageway therethrough;

a door pivotally mounted in said frame for bidirectional rotation between two open positions and a closed position therebetween to permit tidal water flow therethrough; and,

at least one catching assembly for holding the door in said closed position against a minimum level of pressure of said tidal water flow;

whereby tidal flood waters exceeding said minimum pressure level are automatically vented through said crawl space and the like reducing a risk of structural damage from said tidal flood waters.

2. A flood gate according to claim 1, wherein said flood gate comprises:

said door having a ventilation opening;

an automatic louver assembly for controlling air flow through said opening; and,

a screen covering said opening.

3. A flood gate according to claim 2 wherein said automatic louver assembly opens and closes responsive to ambient temperature.

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~~4. A flood gate according to claim 2, wherein said louver~~ assembly comprises:

a plurality of louvers;

a temperature sensitive actuating device; and,

a member connecting said plurality of louvers to said temperature sensitive actuating device;

5. A flood gate according to claim 1, wherein said catching assembly comprises:

at least one catch;

at least one resilient member; and,

at least one detent sleeve;

whereby the catching assembly can maintain said door in said closed position until said minimum pressure is applied to cause the door to swing into one of said open positions.

6. A flood gate according to claim 1, wherein said screen comprises:

a mesh grille; and,

a screen over said grille;

whereby small animals, insects and other pests are denied access to said crawl space and the like notwithstanding ventilation of said crawl space and the like.

8 1. A method for integrating ventilation of an enclosed space and relief from tidal flooding of said enclosed space, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a vent door in a closed position absent said tidal flooding;

automatically ~~opening and closing~~ adjusting vents in said vent door in response to changes in ambient temperature; and,

opening said vent door in response to sufficient pressure exerted by flood waters during said tidal flooding.

~~8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said automatic adjusting of vents comprises the steps of:~~

~~automatically sensing said ambient temperature;~~

~~automatically opening said vents in response to warmer ambient temperatures; and,~~

~~automatically closing said vents in response to cooler ambient temperatures.~~

9. A method as recited in claim 7, comprising the steps of:

automatically biasing said vent door to said closed position; and,

releasably latching said vent door in said closed position.

10. A method as recited in claim 7, comprising the steps of allowing said vent door to swing open in the direction of said ~~utidal flow~~.